

## Message Text

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73

ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ERDA-05 CIAE-00 H-02 INR-07

IO-11 L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01

SAJ-01 SAM-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 NSC-05 /090 W

----- 122986

P 171905Z FEB 76

FM USDEL MBFR VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1425

SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO USMISSION NATO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L MBFR VIENNA 0050

FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJ: MBFR: AHG REQUEST FOR PRESS GUIDANCE

REF: A) MBFR VIENNA 0044 DTG 161336Z FEB 76; B) BONN 2573

DTG 131805Z FEB 76; C) BONN 2469 DTG 121732Z FEB 76

1. WE HAVE THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS ON AHG REQUEST TO NAC  
(REFTEL A) FOR AUTHORITY TO USE, FOR BACKGROUND PRESS  
BRIEFINGS, FOUR ADDITIONAL POINTS OF INFORMATION:

A) THE NUMBERS IN THE REDUCTION PACKAGE:

B) THE 900,000 COMBINED COMMON CEILING FIGURE;

C) THE FACT THAT ELEMENTS REDUCED WOULD BE LIMITED AT REDUCED  
LEVELS;

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D) THE FACT THAT LIMITS ON NON-US ALLIED EQUIPMENT ARE

UNACCEPTABLE.

2. PRESSURE FOR THIS REQUEST WITHIN AD HOC GROUP HAS COME PRIMARILY FROM UK, WITH SUPPORT FROM FRG. IN BOTH CASES, DOMESTIC FACTORS APPEAR CONTROLLING. THE FRG IS APPARENTLY UNDER PARTICULAR PRESSURE TO EXPLAIN AND JUSTIFY THE OPTION III PROPOSAL PUBLICLY, AS ILLUSTRATED BY REF (B). IN THE AHG, ONLY THE NETHERLANDS REP EXPRESSLY QUESTIONED THE NEED TO ASK FOR THIS AUTHORITY NOW. IN ADDITION, THE EASTERN PRESS CONFERENCE AT THE BEGINNING OF THE CURRENT ROUND, EASTERN REPS' WEEKLY POST-PLENARY PRESS BACKGROUNDEES AND THE RECENT HUNGARIAN PRESS ARTICLE (REFTELC) GIVING DETAILS OF THE OPTION III OFFER, SUGGEST THAT THE EAST MAY BE UNDERTAKING A PUBLIC CAMPAIGN TO CRITICIZE THE WESTERN PROPOSAL.

3. WE ARE THEREFORE INCLINED TO SUPPORT THIS AHG REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL AUTHORITY, WITH ONE POSSIBLE EXCEPTION.

SPECIFICALLY:

--ON ITEM (A), WE THINK THAT ON BALANCE IT MIGHT BE PREFERABLE NOT TO PUBLICLY STATE THE NUMBERS OF THE OPTION III REDUCTIONS BUT ONLY TO CONFIRM, IF NEEDED, PRESS REPORTS AS GENERALLY CORRECT. THIS WOULD ALLOW ALLIED SPOKESMEN TO MAINTAIN SOME POSTURE OF CONFIDENTIALITY ABOUT THE NEGOTIATIONS.

--ON ITEM (B), WE SEE NO REASON NOT TO DISCLOSE THE 900,000 COMBINED COMMON CEILING FIGURE; THE 700,000 GROUND FORCE CEILING FIGURE IS KNOWN TO THE PRESS AND THIS NEW INFORMATION WOULD ROUND OUT OUR DESCRIPTION OF THE DEC 16 PROPOSALS.

-- ON ITEM (C), WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO HAVE AUTHORITY TO NOTE THIS POINT IF THE EAST BEGINS TO ARGUE PUBLICLY, AS THEY HAVE PRIVATELY, THAT THE WARHEADS THE US PROPOSES TO REDUCE ARE OBSOLETE AND SCHEDULED FOR UNILATERAL REDUCTION ANYWAY. THIS ITEM WOULD ALLOW PRESS SPOKESMEN TO SWITCH THE FOCUS OF ATTENTION FROM THE CONTENT OF THE REDUCTIONS, WHICH THE EAST IS EMPHASIZING, TO THE POST-REDUCTION LIMITATIONS, WHICH ARE THE REAL SIGNIFICANCE OF THE OPTION III OFFER.

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--ON ITEM (D), WE BELIEVE THAT, IF THE ALLIES WANT TO DRAW ON THIS POINT IN PRESS BACKGROUNDEES, WE SHOULD NOT OBJECT THOUGH WE WOULD PREFER THE POINT NOT BE EMPHASIZED. RESOR

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** INSTRUCTIONS, MUTUAL FORCE REDUCTIONS, THE PRESS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 17 FEB 1976  
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**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** MartinML  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
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**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760059-0450  
**From:** MBFR VIENNA  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
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**Office:** ACTION ACDA  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
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**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Review Authority:** MartinML  
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**TAGS:** PARM, US, NATO, MBFR  
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